

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0006] on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Active alignment techniques are also used to align ends of optical fibers. Active alignment techniques generally include coupling first and second optical fibers together with a coupling mechanism, projecting light down the first fiber into ~~an~~ a proximal end of the second fiber, analyzing the light that propagates out of the distal end of the second fiber to determine alignment, and adjusting the coupling mechanism until a determination is made that proper alignment has been achieved. Not only is alignment needed to prevent optical attenuation, in some cases it is needed to provide polarization continuity as the light propagates from one fiber into the other.